IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-88. Please add the following new claims 89-151:

1-88. (Cancelled)

89. (New) A computer-based method for assisting end users in finding solutions to problems and performing tasks related to upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, the method comprising:

organizing content comprising a plurality of documents related to the solutions and tasks in a knowledge base according to a hierarchy of categories related to one or more one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each category in the hierarchy has zero or more child categories, wherein a category with one or more child category is a parent category, and wherein a child category in the hierarchy has one or more parent categories, and wherein each document in the knowledge base is associated with one or more categories in the hierarchy;

implementing a plurality of paths through the hierarchy of categories, wherein each path represents a particular strategy for solving a particular problem or for performing a particular task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each path is configured to direct the end users to one or more of the documents in the knowledge base, and wherein each document in the knowledge base is reachable by one or more paths;

displaying on a computer system a first display comprising:

a user-selectable macro tasks link; and

a user-selectable individual tasks link;

receiving a first user input selecting either the macro tasks link or the individual tasks link;

if the first user input selects the macro tasks link, displaying on the computer system a macro tasks user interface to one or more high-level tasks in the one or more

work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each high-level task is represented on the macro tasks user interface by a user-selectable high-level task item associated with one or more of the paths through the hierarchy of categories; and

if the first user input selects the individual tasks link, displaying on the computer system an individual tasks user interface to one or more low-level tasks in one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each low-level task is represented on the individual tasks user interface by a user-selectable individual task item associated with one or more of the paths through the hierarchy of categories.

90. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the macro tasks user interface and the individual tasks user interface each implement a task-centric user interface for assisting the end users in locating content in the knowledge base, the method further comprising:

displaying on the task-centric user interface:

one or more task items, wherein each of the one or more task items specifies a particular task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry; and

one or more subtask items each associated with a first task specified by a currently active task item of the one or more task items, wherein each of the one or more subtask items specifies a particular subtask of the first task, wherein each of the one or more subtask items is user-selectable to display task details of the particular subtask specified by the subtask item;

selecting a first subtask item of the one or more subtask items associated with the first task in response to a second user input to the computer system; and

displaying on the computer system one or more task detail items of a first subtask specified by the first subtask item in response to said selecting the first subtask item, wherein each of the one or more task detail items are user-selectable to display one of a plurality of task detail displays associated with the particular task detail item;

wherein each of the plurality of task detail displays comprises information for use in assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one of the tasks related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

91. (New) The method of claim 90, further comprising:

selecting a first task detail item of the one or more task detail items in response to a third user input; and

displaying a first task detail display in response to said selecting the first task detail item, wherein the first task detail display comprises information about one or more products or services provided by a vendor, and wherein the information is related to performing one or more particular tasks related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

92. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the first task detail display comprises textual information configured for use in finding a solution to a particular problem related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

93. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more icons which are each user-selectable to display additional information configured for use in finding a solution to a particular problem related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

94. (New) The method of claim 93, wherein the additional information includes one or more of textual information, graphical information, video information and audio information.

95. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more items which are user-selectable to display other task detail displays.

96. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more items which are user-selectable to display another portion of the first task detail display.

97. (New) The method of claim 91, further comprising:

displaying on the computer system one or more personal displays for the end user; and

adding a link to the first task detail display to one of the one or more personal displays in response to a fourth user input.

98. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein the information comprised in each task detail display includes information about one or more of products or services configured for use in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

99. (New) The method of claim 90, wherein each of the plurality of task detail displays is associated with one or more of a plurality of task detail items, wherein each of the plurality of task detail items is associated with one of a plurality of subtask items, and wherein each of the plurality of subtask items is associated with one of the plurality of individual task items.

100. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein each individual task item on the individual tasks user interface specifies a particular low-level task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, and wherein each individual task item is user-selectable to access content from the knowledge base related to the particular low-level task specified by the individual task item.

101. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein each high-level task item on the macro tasks user interface specifies a particular high-level task related to one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, and wherein each high-level task item is user-selectable to access content from the knowledge base related to the particular high-level task specified by the high-level task item.

102. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the first display, the macro tasks user interface, and the individual tasks user interface are configured to be displayed by user interface software.

103. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the user interface software implements a web browser, and wherein the first display, the macro tasks user interface, and the individual tasks user interface are provided to the web browser by a web server.

104. (New) The method of claim 102, wherein the first display, the macro tasks user interface, and the individual tasks user interface are provided to the user interface software by an Application Service Provider (ASP).

105. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the knowledge base comprises content for assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one task related to the geology and geophysics disciplines of the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

106. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the knowledge base comprises content for assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one task related to the geology discipline of the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

107. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the knowledge base comprises content for assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one task related to the geophysics discipline of the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

108. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the knowledge base comprises content for assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one task related to

the drilling discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry.

109. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the knowledge base comprises content for assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one task related to the production engineering discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry.

110. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the knowledge base comprises content for assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one task related to the reservoir engineering discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry.

111. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the knowledge base comprises content for assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one task related to the business management discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry.

112. (New) The method of claim 89, wherein the knowledge base comprises content for assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one task related to the information management discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry.

113. (New) A server computer system for assisting end users in finding solutions to problems and performing tasks related to upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, wherein the memory includes:

a knowledge base comprising a plurality of documents related to the solutions and tasks in a knowledge base organized according to a hierarchy of categories

related to one or more one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each category in the hierarchy has zero or more child categories, wherein a category with one or more child category is a parent category, and wherein a child category in the hierarchy has one or more parent categories, and wherein each document in the knowledge base is associated with one or more categories in the hierarchy;

a plurality of defined paths through the hierarchy of categories, wherein each path represents a particular strategy for solving a particular problem or for performing a particular task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each path is configured to direct the end users to one or more of the documents in the knowledge base, and wherein each document in the knowledge base is reachable by one or more paths;

a server program; and

a plurality of displays, wherein the plurality of displays are configured to be provided by the server program to client systems as a user interface to the knowledge base;

wherein the server program is executable by the processor within the server computer system to:

provide a first display to a client system, wherein the first display comprises a user-selectable macro tasks link and a user-selectable individual tasks link;

receive from the client system a first user input selecting either the macro tasks link or the individual tasks link;

if the first user input selects the macro tasks link, provide to the client system a macro tasks display comprising a macro tasks user interface to one or more high-level tasks in the one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each high-level task is represented on the macro tasks display by a user-selectable high-level task item associated with one or more of the paths through the hierarchy of categories; and

if the first user input selects the individual tasks link, provide to the client system an individual tasks display comprising an individual tasks user interface to one or more low-level tasks in one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and

production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each low-level task is represented on the individual tasks display by a user-selectable individual task item associated with one or more of the paths through the hierarchy of categories.

114. (New) The server computer system of claim 113, wherein the macro tasks user interface and the individual tasks user interface are each configured to provide a task-centric user interface for assisting the end users in locating content in the knowledge base, wherein the server program is further executable by the processor within the server computer system to:

display on the task-centric user interface:

one or more task items, wherein each of the one or more task items specifies a particular task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry; and

one or more subtask items each associated with a first task specified by a currently active task item of the one or more task items, wherein each of the one or more subtask items specifies a particular subtask of the first task, wherein each of the one or more subtask items is user-selectable to display task details of the particular subtask specified by the subtask item;

receive from the client system a second user input;

select a first subtask item of the one or more subtask items associated with the first task in response to the second user input; and

display on the task-centric user interface one or more task detail items of a first subtask specified by the first subtask item in response to said selecting the first subtask item, wherein each of the one or more task detail items are user-selectable to display one of a plurality of task detail displays associated with the particular task detail item;

wherein each of the plurality of task detail displays comprises information for use in assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one of the tasks related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

115. (New) The server computer system of claim 114, wherein the server program is further executable by the processor within the server computer system to:

select a first task detail item of the one or more task detail items in response to a third user input; and

provide to the client system a first task detail display in response to said selecting the first task detail item, wherein the first task detail display comprises information about one or more products or services provided by a vendor, and wherein the information is related to performing one or more particular tasks related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

116. (New) The server computer system of claim 115, wherein the first task detail display comprises textual information configured for use in finding a solution to a particular problem related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

117. (New) The server computer system of claim 115, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more icons which are each user-selectable to display additional information configured for use in finding a solution to a particular problem related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

118. (New) The server computer system of claim 117, wherein the additional information includes one or more of textual information, graphical information, video information and audio information.

119. (New) The server computer system of claim 115, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more items which are user-selectable to display other task detail displays.

120. (New) The server computer system of claim 115, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more items which are user-selectable to display another portion of the first task detail display.

121. (New) The server computer system of claim 115, wherein the server program is further executable by the processor within the server computer system to:

provide one or more personal displays to the client system; and

add a link to the first task detail display to one of the one or more personal displays in response to a fourth user input.

122. (New) The server computer system of claim 114, wherein the information comprised in each task detail display includes information about one or more of products or services configured for use in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

123. (New) The server computer system of claim 114, wherein each of the plurality of task detail displays is associated with one or more of a plurality of task detail items, wherein each of the plurality of task detail items is associated with one of a plurality of subtask items, and wherein each of the plurality of subtask items is associated with one of the plurality of individual task items.

124. (New) The server computer system of claim 113, wherein each individual task item on the individual tasks user interface specifies a particular low-level task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, and wherein each individual task item is user-selectable to access content from the knowledge base related to the particular low-level task specified by the individual task item.

125. (New) The server computer system of claim 113, wherein each high-level task item on the macro tasks user interface specifies a particular high-level task related to one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, and wherein each high-level task item is user-selectable to access content from the knowledge base related to the particular high-level task specified by the high-level task item.

126. (New) The server computer system of claim 113, wherein the knowledge base comprises content for assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one task related to at least one of the geology and geophysics disciplines of the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, the geology discipline of the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, the geophysics discipline of the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, the drilling discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry, the production engineering discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry, the reservoir engineering discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry, the business management discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry, and the information management discipline of the upstream exploration and production area of the oil and gas industry.

127. (New) A system for assisting end users in finding solutions to problems and performing tasks related to upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, the system comprising:

a server computer system comprising a first processor and a first memory, wherein the first memory includes:

a knowledge base comprising a plurality of documents related to the solutions and tasks in a knowledge base organized according to a hierarchy of categories related to one or more one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each category in the hierarchy has zero or more child categories, wherein a category with one or more child category is a parent category, and wherein a child category in the hierarchy has one or more parent categories, and wherein each document in the knowledge base is associated with one or more categories in the hierarchy;

a plurality of defined paths through the hierarchy of categories, wherein each path represents a particular strategy for solving a particular problem or for performing a particular task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of

the oil and gas industry, wherein each path is configured to direct the end users to one or more of the documents in the knowledge base, and wherein each document in the knowledge base is reachable by one or more paths;

a server program; and

a plurality of displays, wherein the plurality of displays are configured to be provided by the server program to client computer systems as a user interface to the knowledge base;

a client computer system comprising a display device, a second processor and a second memory;

wherein the system is operable to:

display on the display device of the client computer system a first display of the plurality of displays, wherein the first display is provided to the client system by the server system, and wherein the first display comprises a user-selectable macro tasks link and a user-selectable individual tasks link;

receive a first user input on the client computer system selecting either the macro tasks link or the individual tasks link; and

if the first user input selects the macro tasks link, display on the display device of the client computer system a macro tasks display comprising a macro tasks user interface to one or more high-level tasks in the one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each high-level task is represented on the macro tasks display by a user-selectable high-level task item associated with one or more of the paths through the hierarchy of categories; and

if the first user input selects the individual tasks link, display on the display device of the client computer system an individual tasks display comprising an individual tasks user interface to one or more low-level tasks in one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each low-level task is represented on the individual tasks display by a user-selectable individual task item associated with one or more of the paths through the hierarchy of categories.

128. (New) The system of claim 127, wherein the macro tasks user interface and the individual tasks user interface are each configured to provide a task-centric user interface on the display device of the client computer system for assisting the end users in locating content in the knowledge base, and wherein the system is further operable to:

display on the task-centric user interface:

one or more task items, wherein each of the one or more task items specifies a particular task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry; and

one or more subtask items each associated with a first task specified by a currently active task item of the one or more task items, wherein each of the one or more subtask items specifies a particular subtask of the first task, wherein each of the one or more subtask items is user-selectable to display task details of the particular subtask specified by the subtask item;

receive a second user input on the client computer system selecting a first subtask item of the one or more subtask items associated with the first task; and

display on the display device of the client computer system one or more task detail items of a first subtask specified by the first subtask item in response to said selecting the first subtask item, wherein each of the one or more task detail items are user-selectable to display one of a plurality of task detail displays associated with the particular task detail item;

wherein each of the plurality of task detail displays comprises information for use in assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one of the tasks related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

129. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the system is further operable to:

receive a third user input on the client computer system selecting a first task detail item of the one or more task detail items; and

display on the display device of the client computer system a first task detail display in response to said selecting the first task detail item, wherein the first task detail display comprises information about one or more products or services provided by a

vendor, and wherein the information is related to performing one or more particular tasks related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

130. (New) The system of claim 129, wherein the first task detail display comprises textual information configured for use in finding a solution to a particular problem related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

131. (New) The system of claim 129, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more icons which are each user-selectable to display additional information configured for use in finding a solution to a particular problem related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

132. (New) The system of claim 131, wherein the additional information includes one or more of textual information, graphical information, video information and audio information.

133. (New) The system of claim 129, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more items which are user-selectable to display other task detail displays.

134. (New) The system of claim 129, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more items which are user-selectable to display another portion of the first task detail display.

135. (New) The system of claim 129, wherein the system is further operable to:

display on the display device of the client computer system one or more personal displays;

receive a fourth user input on the client computer system; and

add a link to the first task detail display to one of the one or more personal displays in response to the fourth user input .

136. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein the information comprised in each task detail display includes information about one or more of products or services configured for use in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

137. (New) The system of claim 128, wherein each of the plurality of task detail displays is associated with one or more of a plurality of task detail items, wherein each of the plurality of task detail items is associated with one of a plurality of subtask items, and wherein each of the plurality of subtask items is associated with one of the plurality of individual task items.

138. (New) The system of claim 127, wherein each individual task item on the individual tasks user interface specifies a particular low-level task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, and wherein each individual task item is user-selectable to access content from the knowledge base related to the particular low-level task specified by the individual task item.

139. (New) The system of claim 127, wherein each high-level task item on the macro tasks user interface specifies a particular high-level task related to one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, and wherein each high-level task item is user-selectable to access content from the knowledge base related to the particular high-level task specified by the high-level task item.

140. (New) The system of claim 127, wherein the server program is a web server program, wherein the second memory includes a web browser executable within the client computer system to display web pages on the display device of the client system, and wherein the plurality of displays are web pages configured to be displayed by the program instructions.

141. (New) A tangible, computer-accessible medium comprising program instructions for assisting end users in finding solutions to problems and performing tasks related to

upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

organizing content comprising a plurality of documents related to the solutions and tasks in a knowledge base according to a hierarchy of categories related to one or more one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each category in the hierarchy has zero or more child categories, wherein a category with one or more child category is a parent category, and wherein a child category in the hierarchy has one or more parent categories, and wherein each document in the knowledge base is associated with one or more categories in the hierarchy;

implementing a plurality of paths through the hierarchy of categories, wherein each path represents a particular strategy for solving a particular problem or for performing a particular task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each path is configured to direct the end users to one or more of the documents in the knowledge base, and wherein each document in the knowledge base is reachable by one or more paths;

displaying on a computer system a first display comprising:

a user-selectable macro tasks link; and

a user-selectable individual tasks link;

receiving a first user input selecting either the macro tasks link or the individual tasks link;

if the first user input selects the macro tasks link, displaying on the computer system a macro tasks user interface to one or more high-level tasks in the one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, wherein each high-level task is represented on the macro tasks user interface by a user-selectable high-level task item associated with one or more of the paths through the hierarchy of categories; and

if the first user input selects the individual tasks link, displaying on the computer system an individual tasks user interface to one or more low-level tasks in one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry,

wherein each low-level task is represented on the individual tasks user interface by a user-selectable individual task item associated with one or more of the paths through the hierarchy of categories.

142. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 141, wherein the macro tasks user interface and the individual tasks user interface each implement a task-centric user interface for assisting the end users in locating content in the knowledge base, and wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

displaying on the task-centric user interface:

one or more task items, wherein each of the one or more task items specifies a particular task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry; and

one or more subtask items each associated with a first task specified by a currently active task item of the one or more task items, wherein each of the one or more subtask items specifies a particular subtask of the first task, wherein each of the one or more subtask items is user-selectable to display task details of the particular subtask specified by the subtask item;

selecting a first subtask item of the one or more subtask items associated with the first task in response to a second user input to the computer system; and

displaying on the computer system one or more task detail items of a first subtask specified by the first subtask item in response to said selecting the first subtask item, wherein each of the one or more task detail items are user-selectable to display one of a plurality of task detail displays associated with the particular task detail item;

wherein each of the plurality of task detail displays comprises information for use in assisting the end users in performing one or more portions of at least one of the tasks related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

143. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 142, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

selecting a first task detail item of the one or more task detail items in response to a third user input; and

displaying a first task detail display in response to said selecting the first task detail item, wherein the first task detail display comprises information about one or more products or services provided by a vendor, and wherein the information is related to performing one or more particular tasks related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

144. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 143, wherein the first task detail display comprises textual information configured for use in finding a solution to a particular problem related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

145. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 143, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more icons which are each user-selectable to display additional information configured for use in finding a solution to a particular problem related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry.

146. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 145, wherein the additional information includes one or more of textual information, graphical information, video information and audio information.

147. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 143, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more items which are user-selectable to display other task detail displays.

148. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 143, wherein the first task detail display comprises one or more items which are user-selectable to display another portion of the first task detail display.

149. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 142, wherein each of the plurality of task detail displays is associated with one or more of a plurality of task detail items, wherein each of the plurality of task detail items is associated with one of a

plurality of subtask items, and wherein each of the plurality of subtask items is associated with one of the plurality of individual task items.

150. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 141, wherein each individual task item on the individual tasks user interface specifies a particular low-level task related to the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, and wherein each individual task item is user-selectable to access content from the knowledge base related to the particular low-level task specified by the individual task item.

151. (New) The tangible, computer-accessible medium of claim 141, wherein each high-level task item on the macro tasks user interface specifies a particular high-level task related to one or more work areas in the upstream exploration and production areas of the oil and gas industry, and wherein each high-level task item is user-selectable to access content from the knowledge base related to the particular high-level task specified by the high-level task item.